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APPENDIX

IRON CURTAIN CONTROLS

Finland-USSR Border

The 790-mile section of the Iron Curtain dropped between Finland and the USSR is belted on the Soviet side by a 7-kilometer (4.4 mile) strip, followed by a 20-kilometer (12.4-mile) zone restricted to entry only by special police permission. Patrols guard the entire length of the border, often accompanied by trained dogs. Soviet lookout posts supplement the patrols and in more thickly populated areas along the southern sector of the Curtain five-foot barbed-wire barriers have been erected. A perpetual watch is maintained in important areas, but not in more remote regions.

A system of legislative and de facto controls within the USSR forces thousands who would otherwise leave the USSR for Satellite countries or the West to remain at their jobs. The heart of the system is the internal identity document, the passport, which is issued only to citizens in good standing and must be carried by every traveler. It records his legal place of residence and employment and his military status and serves as basic proof of identity. For any change of employment or residence, the law requires release from former employment and residence deregistration and recording of these actions in the passport. New arrivals in an area must register with the militia within 48 hours. In some cases additional document entries and special travel permits are required.

Forbidden zones along the borders of the Soviet Union vary in depth according to accessibility and terrain. Residents must have special registration entries in their passports and visitors are required to have special permits. Controls are particularly strict in the border areas, as well as in republic capitals, industrial centers, cities of the Baltics and the Ukraine, areas surrounding strategic centers and areas around penal settlements. In some areas persons are required to turn in their passports. In many agricultural areas, workers are not issued a passport.

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The government controls all travel across the international boundaries, requiring an external civilian passport and visas. Persons wishing to leave the country must have a purpose consistent with the current aims and policies of the government of the USSR. Tourism for tourism's sake is impossible for the ordinary citizen.

#### Polish Border

Poland's sector of the Curtain faces the Baltic Sea, but all her borders are guarded. Her border troops total 25,000. The dry-land boundary is paralleled on the Polish side by barbed-wire entanglements, plowed strips, trip wires and observation towers. Searchlights on the towers have been reported. A security zone maintains the impermeability of the border.

Polish citizens must be prepared at any time to submit for examination, on demand of any security official, their basic identity documents. If away from their permanent residence, they must also be able to show supplementary documents giving the reason for this absence. Travel to other Satellite countries and to the West is ordinarily extremely limited for persons other than officials. Groups of citizens, supervised and controlled, may make trips outside for cultural meetings or other government-approved purposes.

#### East-West Germany Border

The Iron Curtain along the border between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Soviet Zone is a combination of physical barriers, border guards (25,000 strong) and patrols, border zone restrictions and constant surveillance of internal movements of the population, stretching for 700 miles.

The 5-kilometer (3.1 mile) restricted area along the East-West demarcation line includes a protective strip, 10-meters (33 feet) wide, adjacent to the frontier. All crossing of this strip is strictly forbidden, and the area is completely cleared and evacuated. Wherever terrain permits,

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it is plowed and harrowed. Residents of the 5-kilometer off limit zone are subjected to rigid restrictive measures. An elaborate system of well-equipped border guards for patrolling the frontier has been efficiently organized. Dogs have been reported accompanying patrols in several sections of the border.

Besides terrain clearing operations, the curtain has been made more nearly impenetrable by observation towers, camouflaged outposts and barbed-wire barricades. Watchtowers, predominantly wooden, some equipped with searchlights, form a definite part of the zonal landscape. Along parts of the border, trip signals, land mines and other detection devices have been reported.

The East German Government, backed by Soviet authority, controls movement of its people inside the country by requiring residence registration and personal identity credentials. Without the required documents a person cannot legally circulate within the country, be domiciled or sometimes even buy food and clothing. Para-military and police members are fully documented by the responsible ministry or military command and must possess valid travel authorization for business or leave trips. Registration and deregistration of residence, whether permanent or temporary, is required throughout East Germany. Travel to all border areas, to Berlin and to certain internal sensitive areas is restricted. Additional stringent travel controls are put in force whenever the government considers necessary.

Passports or interzonal travel certificates for travel across the Iron Curtain are issued by the East German authorities only if the status of the applicant, the purpose of his trip and his destinations are approved.

#### West Germany - Czechoslovakia Border

The 195-mile border between the Federal Republic of Germany and Czechoslovakia is even more tightly controlled than that between East and West Germany. The terrain of the border area is rougher and the physical security is more nearly complete. The fences have fewer gaps; parts are electrified. Antitank barriers cross some level fields in

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addition to the regular barricades across all but a few of the road and railroads which formerly crossed the border. A continuous network of towers, each tower within sight of adjoining towers, with a modern communications network linking towers and outposts, overlook the border. Behind this network lies a series of zones in which security controls become increasingly severe as the border is approached.

Czechoslovakia's border troops total 25,000.

Within Czechoslovakia citizens are required to carry identity cards and must be prepared to prove identity and explain reasons for travel. In restricted border areas controls are frequently encountered on trains, buses, in stations and on footpaths. Travel from Czechoslovakia is subject to possession of valid passport and visa. At the border currency, customs and strict, methodical passport checks are made, regardless of whether the destination is the USSR, a Satellite country, West Germany or Austria.

#### Austria-Czechoslovakia Border

The 250-mile long Czechoslovak-Austrian border is one of the most nearly hermetically sealed frontiers dividing East and West. Physical and administrative barriers ensure an absolute minimum of international traffic.

The physical security installations, which do not necessarily parallel the border and are not continuous, usually include all of the following features: three parallel barbed-wire fences (center fence usually electrified), trip flares, anti-personnel mines, camouflaged bunkers, pill boxes, dugouts, log barriers and "dragons teeth" across roadways and water gates across streams. In addition, immediate western and Eastern approaches to the fence have been cleared, and a plowed and raked area parallels the inner side of the fence. Some villages have been razed and their inhabitants deported into the interior. A number of border troops, deployed along the frontier, man searchlight-mounted watchtowers (spaced according to terrain), maintain walking and mounted patrols (occasionally accompanied by dogs) and fixed posts.

Administrative zones into which entry is restricted or prohibited strengthen the Curtain. The zones vary in depth and the security measures increase near the border.

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### Austria-Hungary Border

Physical and administrative barriers effectively seal the Curtain along the 230-mile Austro-Hungarian border. Physical installations, believed continuous along the entire border except for Lake Ferto, vary in depth and include two parallel barbed-wire fences, cleared uncultivated strips of ground on each side of and parallel to the fence, a plowed and raked strip on the inner side parallel to and between the fence and the cleared strip, trip-wired flares and anti-personnel mines. A number of manned watchtowers with searchlights, spaced according to terrain, mounted and foot patrols (on occasions accompanied by dogs), and fixed sentry posts guard the barrier and border. Hungary's border guards total 18,000.

Restricted or prohibited zones reinforce the curtain. These zones vary in depth from a few meters, along the immediate frontier, to 30 or more kilometers. Movement into these areas is controlled and limited to travelers and residents holding the required documents.

Within Hungary citizens must register and deregister with house wardens and police on arrival or departure at each permanent or temporary change of address. Special permission is required for residence in or access to the restricted border areas. Foreign travel in the country and travel to the West is restricted, although slight relaxations have been reported recently. Regular passports rarely are issued to the average citizen and then are given only after a thorough security check and to persons unlikely to defect to the West.

### Hungary-Yugoslavia Border

The Iron Curtain precludes free flow of international traffic across the 375-mile Hungarian-Yugoslav border, including the 140 miles along waterbodies. Physical barriers may not be continuous or immediately adjacent to the frontier. They include two parallel barbed-wire fences, anti-personnel mines, trip-wired flares and camouflaged bunkers and pill boxes. On each side of the fence is a cleared uncultivated strip. A plowed and raked strip runs between fence and inner cleared strip. Frontier troops man watchtowers, main-

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tain mounted and foot patrols and fixed posts. Dogs sometimes accompany the patrols.

Security measures in the restricted or prohibited zones along the border are increasingly severe as they near the border.

#### Rumania-Yugoslavia Border

Barbed-wire fences mark most sections of the Iron Curtain as it runs along the 345-mile Rumanian-Yugoslav border, except where terrain features form natural barriers. Some 145 miles of the border lie along the Danube River, patrolled by motor boats.

On land, narrow cleared strips of ground, plowed and raked where the terrain permits, run between the fence and the border. A series of observation towers, linked by telephone lines, stand at close intervals along the border. Frontier guards and foot patrols keep the border zone under constant surveillance. Dogs have been reported accompanying the foot patrols at night.

Rumania's 25,000 frontier guards (in addition to the security forces) patrol all the country's borders. A 50-kilometer wide restricted zone parallels the border defenses.

Within the country, Rumanian citizens are required to carry the basic identity book at all times, and a special permit must be obtained from the militia for entry into restricted areas. A visitor in any area is required to register within 24 hours after arrival and to obtain the appropriate entry in his identity document. Few persons are permitted to travel for personal reasons across the borders, either to neighboring satellites or to the West. Despite a slight relaxation of controls reported in 1954 and 1955, travel to the non-Soviet orbit, other than official travel, is rare.

#### Bulgaria-Yugoslavia Border

In addition to the rough mountainous terrain along the 355-mile Bulgarian-Yugoslav border, this section of the Iron Curtain also is sealed by a variety of artificial barriers. The following physical barriers are encountered, although not necessarily as continuous features: barbed-wire fences

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and barbed-wire entanglements, cleared and plowed strips of land paralleling the border; observation towers and hidden guard posts; zig-zag trenches, isolated pill boxes and machine gun nests. Land mines have been reported along some sectors. Bulgaria's 25,000 frontier guards, manning observation towers and organized in foot patrols and hidden ambush units, keep all the borders under surveillance. Dogs have been reported accompanying some patrols.

Behind the immediate border lies a series of zones at 20, 30 and 50-kilometer distances in which the internal movements of the population are regulated in varying degree.

Bulgarians traveling inside the country must possess personal identity cards and must comply with residence registration laws. Admission as a new resident to the five major cities of Bulgaria has been temporarily restricted because of housing shortages, and visits longer than one week are confined to exceptional cases. Travel to border zones and certain other designated areas is restricted and requires special militia permits. Checkpoints on major transportation arteries control all travelers moving to and from these zones.

Citizens are not permitted to travel outside their borders, to satellite or other countries, except for government-approved official, commercial, educational, professional or medical reasons. With the exception of foreign service personnel and high government officials, applicants for passports are required to present documents justifying travel.

#### Bulgaria-Greece Border

Movement across the 240-mile Bulgarian-Greek sector of the Curtain, which also stretches across a mountainous region, is prevented by measures similar to those on the Bulgarian-Yugoslav border. Frontier guards hidden along the frontier guard the Curtain built of barbed-wire fences and entanglements, cleared and plowed strips of land, observation towers and posts, land mines, pill boxes and trenches. Internal population movements are carefully regulated within a 50-kilometer wide zone next to the border.



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### Albania Borders

Although physically detached from the main Iron Curtain, Albania's borders are sealed by a similar curtain of security measures and patrolled by 5,000 border troops. Along its 145-mile border with Greece and 240-mile border with Yugoslavia are hidden border guard ambush units, brush fences, observation towers and in some sectors anti-tank trenches and mines. A 30-kilometer restricted zone parallels the border.

Citizens traveling within are required to carry the basic identity booklet, and members of the armed forces must carry authorization to travel as well. Buses frequently are checked by security police. A special permit is required for entry into border zones and no travel is permitted after sunset in the area nearest the border line.

No perceptible traffic exists between Albania and her land neighbors. Traffic from the West appears limited to foreign officials traveling to Tirane and to Albanian officials on missions abroad. Travel to the Soviet Orbit also is limited to official or government-sponsored groups.

### Turkey-Bulgaria Border

Permanent defenses are located at intervals along the Turkish-Bulgarian frontier, a distance of approximately 140 miles. Since the war the Communist regime has maintained and extended the border defenses until they are now among the strongest on Bulgaria's land frontiers.

The eastern three-fourths of the border consists of hills and low mountains covered by scrub and deciduous trees while the western fourth is a lowland occupied by the Maritsa and Tundzha rivers. Where the border passes through forests, a 50 meter strip has been cut 300 meters from the border. The felled trees have not been cleared. Also, an area approximately 5 kilometers wide along the border is completely clear of cultivation or grazing animals. In places the land has been plowed, mined and fenced with barbed wire. Although extensive stretches of anti-tank ditches and trenches are found along the frontiers, the defenses are not continuous but consist of strongly defended localities which are fortified to protect strategic routes.

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The Maritsa Valley, the region around Elkhovo on the Tundzha River and Malko Turnovo are particularly well fortified. The Maritsa Valley is considered to be the most accessible area because the road and railroad from Sofia to Istanbul pass through the valley; therefore, extremely strong defenses, consisting of trenches, anti-tank obstacles, barbed-wire entanglements, and machinegun emplacements, are located here. East of the Maritsa Valley, the Strandzha Hills reach an elevation of 1,300 to 2,000 feet, the terrain is broken and difficult, and there are no important through routes.

In the Elkhovo region the defenses are reported to extend more than 20 miles back from the nearest point of the frontier. Along the main road from Elkhovo to the Turkish border, the system of fortification extends in places several miles away from the road, and include tank obstacles, anti-tank guns, machinegun emplacements and trenches.

Near Malko Turnovo, on the road from Burgas to Turkey, are anti-tank obstacles, trenches, machinegun emplacements and road blocks.

#### USSR-Turkey Border

The Iron Curtain along the Soviet-Turkish border, 325 miles from the Black Sea on the west to Iran on the east, is one of the most heavily guarded and fortified portions of the entire Iron Curtain. Security not only extends in depth within the Soviet frontier, but includes the use of patrol boats on the Black Sea and planes which penetrate into Turkey on observation missions.

The Soviet-Turkish border adjusts itself to the terrain along much of the frontier. In spite of the relative inaccessibility of large parts of the mountainous areas, the entire length of the border is well-guarded. Observation towers watch much of the border, especially on commanding heights, and the entire frontier is patrolled by closely-spaced mounted and foot guards, often accompanied by dogs. In the flatter areas are one or two plowed strips, paralleled by barbed-wire fences and entanglements. Also common along the border are electrified wires and trip wires which send up rocket flares and set off an alarm at the nearest guard post.

#### USSR-Iran Border

The more than 300-mile section of the Iron Curtain along the Soviet-Iran border not only includes well-manned fixed positions, but is complete to the point of patrol boats in Iranian waters on the Caspian Sea and planes which penetrate Iranian territory on observation missions.

Along the boundary west of the Caspian Sea, even the most difficult terrain has small observation posts overlooking Iranian territory. Although the Aras River forms a large part of the boundary, Soviet security measures are found along its entire length and continue southeast upon the Moghan Steppe. Except for a few very rugged spots west of the Caspian, the frontier consists of barbed-wire fences, plowed strips patrolled and minutely inspected, watchtowers and observation posts. The barbed-wire fences are wired to set off an alarm system, and a supplementary wire system surrounds some border posts. The height of the barbed wire fences has been raised in one sector where a possibility exists that a Soviet defector by one dash might gain freedom. Moving eastward to the Caspian Sea, patrol boats on occasion enter Iranian waters to play searchlights on small Iranian towns.

East of the Caspian, large areas of the mountainous sector of the boundary do not have continuous barbed-wire fences, Soviet cavalry and foot patrols, hidden observation posts and security forces in depth control avenues of approach to the frontier. Watchtowers stand where terrain affords a clear view. Soviet planes from airfields near and immediately adjacent to the frontier observe the free land to the south. The lowland sectors are closed by the familiar plowed strips, electrified signal wire, watchtowers, observation posts and patrols.

#### USSR-Afghanistan Border

Much of the 1,200-mile Soviet-Afghan border runs through land naturally difficult to penetrate. In the extremely rugged eastern portion it lies along desolate ridgelines for 100 miles and then follows the Oxus River (Pyandzh, Amu-Dar'ya) through mountains and out onto its desert floodplain for another 700 miles. For the remaining 400 miles it leaves the river and runs across a stretch of sandy desert lowland and desolate rolling hill country.

Little attention is paid to the mountainous extreme eastern portions of this border. By contrast the Oxus River makes a finite boundary and where it passes through the mountains, it is patrolled by horse and by truck along the trails and roads which the Russians built close to the river. A handful of troops are stationed here and there along the route but there is little other evidence of a closed border. The natives have little inclination to cross.

In the first five miles north of the Oxus River cultivation is extremely limited and there are no farms. Roads leading southward to the river are patrolled and in the more important north bank towns are formidable troop garrisons. Watchtowers and troops guard crossing points on the river and the river bank is well patrolled between towns.

West of the Amu-Dar'ya (or Oxus) the Soviet-Afghan border crosses sandy desert and rolling hill country that requires more extensive security surveillance. Where possible one or two plowed strips of land follow the border on the Soviet side. Observation towers have been erected at frequent intervals. Both motorized and mounted armed guards patrol the entire sector for footprints and other evidence of attempts to cross the border.

## THE FAR EAST

The Iron Curtain in Asia extends from the Pacific coast of Siberia, through the Korean Peninsula separating North and South Korea, the Pacific coast of China and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, across to the Laotian border, north along this border to China, along China's southwestern frontier (most of which has not been formally demarcated), separating her from Burma, Bhutan, Nepal, India and Jammu-Kashmir, there joining the Russo-Afghanistan border in the Middle East. Portions of the curtain along the southwestern and Pacific borders of China, the DRV and North Korean areas often are referred to as the Bamboo Curtain.

Communist border measures in this area are influenced by the physical geography of the area. Much of the curtain is along stretches of ocean or rugged mountainous terrain, often heavily forested. Continuous, rigid patrols of these frontiers are not practical. Reliance is placed instead on control of a few key border points, roving patrols of other areas and strict travel controls and regimentation of the populace within the Bloc. By limiting travel distances and by an extensive system of residence and employment documentation, the Communists maintain a close check on the people. Travel in key areas is very strictly controlled.

### Communist China

The physical curtain around the Peoples Republic of China may be divided into two portions--the coastal area and the southwest frontier. Along the coast there is no elaborate system of controls except in the region opposite the island of Formosa, which is defended by troop deployments. The southwestern border, mostly marked informally if at all, is primarily high rugged mountain terrain, guarded by roving patrols and reinforced by checkpoints at key villages on international routes. Within the country an illegal entrant would move with difficulty because of internal controls and restrictions.

The short border with British Hong Kong is strictly guarded by constant patrolling, searchlights and observation towers.

Travel within China is controlled largely by the residence certificate. Issued to each person, above the age of

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15, the residence certificate provides a continuous record of the bearer's residence changes and employment and must be carried by a traveler. Families changing residence must have removal permits also. Some reports state that travel permits also are required for internal travel.

To leave China a person must apply to his local Public Security Bureau and present his residence certificate and occupational verification. Extensive background investigations are conducted before issuance of exit-entry permits, which usually permit 30-60 days absence. Even then extensive interrogations are held at Border Defense Bureau checkpoints as to purpose, method and travel destination. Guarantors must be named by the applicant to insure his return, especially if he is under 50 and subject to military service. A special exit permit sometimes may be granted to overseas Chinese maintaining permanent residence outside mainland China, but only after extensive interrogation by the Public Security Bureau.

Travel to other Bloc countries appears to be confined to officials, representatives to Communist-sponsored meetings and students being sent to the USSR for special training.

#### North Vietnam (DRV) Border

The borders of North Vietnam that do not touch Communist territory may be divided into three parts--the coastal area, the border with South Vietnam, and the Laotian border. The coastal area is lightly patrolled except for key ports. The 50-mile long cease-fire line separating North and South Vietnam is paralleled by a three-mile wide, heavily patrolled demilitarized zone on each side. The Laotian border passes almost entirely through mountains and jungles making thorough border patrol unnecessary. Communist control extends beyond this border into the Laotian provinces of Sam Neua and Phong Saly where the DRV-supported Pathet Lao exercises some degree of control.

Internal control is affected by a citizen's certificate. A temporary identification certificate valid for up to one year is issued in areas which first came under DRV control after July 1954, or for people of undetermined past.

As of January 1955, travel in the DRV required a permit issued by the provincial Public Security Office after a

recommendation from the local Public Security Office. Landowners, wealthy farmers, former civil servants of the Vietnamese National Government and Catholics have had extreme difficulty in obtaining permits. A one to three months permit issued by the district Public Security Office is required for travel between provinces. A permit issued by the local administrative or security committee usually is required for travel between districts. Applicants for any travel permit are required to submit a personal history statement for security check.

Reports indicate that a person wishing to travel to South Vietnam was required to hold a permit issued by the provincial Public Security Office under the direction of the interzone office. To obtain this permit, valid for a period of three to six months, one had to have a letter of introduction from the local Public Security Office and a personal history statement. Since February 1955 the issuance of such travel permits has been virtually discontinued.

As of 1953 the movement of individuals across the Chinese border was controlled by a Frontier Control Committee, which issued passports.

#### North Korea Border

Separating North Korea from South Korea is the three-mile wide demilitarized zone agreed to in the Korean armistice negotiations. The zone is under constant surveillance by both the UN and Communist forces.

Control of the North Korean population is exercised through a citizenship certificate required of all Koreans over the age of 18. The certificate serial number is recorded on all other personal documentation and is the key to the interlocking document control system. To travel within the country the North Korean must receive permission from his local police chief. After presentation of his citizenship certificate, and after convincing the police that there is no subversive reason for his travel he is granted a travel permit. He must present this permit and his citizenship certificate at the railroad station before being allowed to purchase a ticket. Unannounced spot checks during the trip and the requirement to register with the local police at his destination are further checks.

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The latest information available indicates that persons desiring to travel to a foreign country must present their applications to a three-man committee on the national level for final approval and to obtain authority for receiving a passport. Although all Korean citizens over the age of 16 are eligible to receive a passport, usually only government personnel is considered by the authorities.

#### USSR-Japan Border

Relatively narrow expanses of water separate Japan from two stretches of Soviet territory, the Kuriles and the island of Sakhalin. Sakhalin is separated from Hokkaido by the Soya Strait, which is 24 miles at its narrowest point. All 300,000-400,000 Japanese population on the southern half of the island were evacuated after 1945, and there has been practically no contact since except for Japanese purchase of Sakhalin coal.

A narrow strait separates the Soviet-controlled Kurile Islands from Hokkaido. After 1945 the Japanese population of 15,000-20,000 in the Kuriles were evacuated to Hokkaido. There have been numerous Russian seizures of Japanese fishing vessels in the straits. The Soviets have proposed that the straits providing access to the Sea of Japan be closed to international shipping.